
ST THEODORE'S, TOORAK GARDENS

**ORDINARY 28
11 OCTOBER 2026**



WELCOME

St Theodore's is an active, caring and supportive community which values liturgy, prayer and preaching to sustain our daily lives, as we seek to foster love, hope and justice for all. You are welcome here as you are, embraced within God's boundless love. We hope you will feel at home.

PRAYING WITH CANDLES AND STONES

As you enter the church, there are two stations for prayer. One is an invitation to light a candle, symbolising our praying for each other before God. The other is an invitation to drop stones into a bowl of water, symbolising letting go of something (or someone) weighing us down.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

- If there is a queue for the wine, please pause to avoid congestion.
- If you do not wish to drink the wine, you may wish to pause before the chalice to acknowledge the sacramental presence.
- The priest will come to you for communion or prayers, if need be.
- For health reasons, dipping bread into the wine is prohibited.

LIVE-STREAMING

Our 9:30am Sunday Service is live-streamed on YouTube. We endeavour not to show communicants coming forward for Holy Communion.

SUPPORTING OUR MINISTRY

St Theodore's depends on donations to sustain our ministry. You can contribute in person with Cash (Offertory Bowl) or Card (Eftpos Machine) at the church entrance. You can offer via bank transfer a regular gift to our Planned Giving account, or a donation to our FSP Donations account. We very much value your support.

Please email office@theodores.church to subscribe to our mailing list.

Please stand in body or in spirit

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: CP 502 "LIGHT'S ABODE, CELESTIAL SALEM"

- 1 Light's abode, celestial Salem,
vision whence true peace doth spring,
brighter than the heart can fancy,
mansion of the highest King;
O how glorious are the praises
which of thee the prophets sing!
- 2 There for ever and for ever
alleluia is outpoured;
for unending, for unbroken,
is the feast-day of the Lord;
all is pure and all is holy
that within thy walls is stored.
- 3 There no cloud or passing vapour
dims the brightness of the air;
endless noon-day, glorious noon-day,
from the Sun of suns is there;
there no night brings rest from labour,
for unknown are toil and care.
- 5 Now with gladness, now with courage,
bear the burden on thee laid,
that hereafter these thy labours
may with endless gifts be paid;
and in everlasting glory
thou with brightness be arrayed.
- 6 Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

Tune: Regent Square
Music: Henry Smart (1813-1879)
Words: Thomas A Kempis (c1380-1471)
© Common Praise 2001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge the Kurna People as the traditional owners and custodians of this land.

May we walk together in harmony in a spirit of reconciliation.

INVOCATION AND GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

† Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCE

This is our God for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. (Isaiah 25.9)

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden:

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you,

and worthily magnify your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIES

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Silence may be kept.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
O God, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
† pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,**

we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
† in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Saving and healing God,
you have promised
that those who have died with Christ shall live with him:
grant us grace to be continually thankful
for all you have done for us,
and in that thankfulness
to be eager to serve and live for others,
so that we and all your children may rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST READING: EXODUS 32.1-14

¹ When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' ² Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on

the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.' ³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.' ⁶ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷ The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"' ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, 'O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, "It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth"? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, "I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever."'¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 105.1-6, 20-24

Response: Remember us, O Lord, as you favour your people.



Re - mem - ber us, O Lord, as you fa - vour your peo - ple.

¹ Praise the Lord;

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
and his mercy endures for ever.

² Who can express the mighty acts of the Lord:
or fully voice his praise? **R**

³ Blessed are those who act according to justice:
who at all times do the right.

⁴ Remember me, O Lord,
when you visit your people with your favour:
and come to me also with your salvation, **R**

⁵ That I may see the prosperity of your chosen:
that I may rejoice with the rejoicing of your people,
and exult with those who are your own.

⁶ We have sinned like our ancestors:
we have acted perversely and done wrong. **R**

²⁰ At Horeb they made themselves a calf:
and bowed down in worship to an image.

²¹ And so they exchanged the glory of God:
for the likeness of an ox that eats hay. **R**

²² They forgot God who was their saviour:
that had done such great things in Egypt,

²³ Who had worked his wonders in the land of Ham:
and his terrible deeds at the Red Sea.

²⁴ Therefore he thought to destroy them:
had not Moses his servant stood before him in the breach,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them. **R**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4.1-9

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

For the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or in spirit

GRADUAL HYMN: SP 288 "LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER FLOWING"

- 1 Like a mighty river flowing,
like a flower in beauty growing,
far beyond all human knowing
is the perfect peace of God.
- 2 Like the hills serene and even,
like the coursing clouds of heaven,
like the heart that's been forgiven
is the perfect peace of God.

- 3 Like the summer breezes playing,
like the tall trees softly swaying,
like the lips of silent praying
is the perfect peace of God.
- 4 Like the morning sun ascended,
like the scents of evening blended,
like a friendship never ended
is the perfect peace of God.
- 5 Like the azure ocean swelling,
like the jewel all-excelling,
far beyond our human telling
is the perfect peace of God.

Tune: Quem Pastores Laudavere
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Words: Michael Perry (1942-1996)
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THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**The Word was made flesh and / lived among us
To all who accept him, he gave power to become / children of God**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22.1-14
‡ Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." ⁵ But they made light

of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

The sermon is followed by a time of silence for reflection.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers are followed by a time of silence for reflection.

Conclusion:

Compassionate God, you have promised to hear our prayers.
**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.
God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN: CP 304 "HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE THEE FACE TO FACE"

- 1 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.
- 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.
- 3 I have no help but thine; nor do I need
another arm save thine to lean upon;
it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
my strength is in thy might, thy might alone.
- 4 Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear;
the feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
the bread and wine remove, but thou art here,
nearer than ever, still our shield and sun.
- 5 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
yet, passing, points to the glad feast above,
giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Tune: Magda
Music: Ralph Vaughan
Williams (1872-1958)
Words: Horatius Bonar
(1808-1889)
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PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty, our joy and our salvation,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks to you, almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.
For he is the true high priest,
who has freed us from our sins
and made us a royal priesthood
to serve you, our God and Father.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

† Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious God,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness, comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whom you sent to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

Hear us, merciful Lord;
through Christ accept our sacrifice of praise;
and, by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit,
sanctify this bread and wine,
that we who share in this holy sacrament
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

Who, when his hour had come,
on the night before he went up to the cross
to make full atonement for the sins of the whole world,
offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying,
'Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, in obedience to his command,
we commemorate and celebrate his saving passion and death,
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

We thank you that by your grace alone
you have accepted us in Christ;
and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice,
holy and acceptable in your sight.

Through Christ, receive this our duty and service,
and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts
† may, by your Holy Spirit, be one body in Christ,
and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy,
bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom
with all the company of the redeemed.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father eternal,
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

This is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate
So come to this table, those who have much faith
and those who would like to have more;

those who have been here often
and those who have not been for a long time;
those who have tried to follow Jesus;
and we who have failed.
Come.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Households can come forward together if they wish.

At the entrance of the church you are welcome to receive anointing for healing or to use our two stations of prayer, the bowl of water with stones and the bowl of candles.

After Communion has concluded, please stand in body or in spirit.

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE

Praise the Lord; O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his mercy endures for ever. (Psalm 105.1)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of life,
Spirit moving among us,
in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.
May we who celebrate this holy feast
walk in his risen light
and bring new life to all creation.

PRAYER OF SELF-OFFERING

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

BLESSING

May the God who is present in places of suffering
set you in place on holy ground.
May Christ who turns towards the oppressed
draw you deeper into grace.
May the Holy Spirit who kindles life throughout creation
give you courage to tend the wounded.

And may the blessing of God,
† Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

RECESSIONAL: CP 563 "REJOICE THE LORD IS KING"

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
- 2 Jesus, the Savior, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains,
He took his seat above;
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

3 His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

5 Rejoice in glorious hope!
Jesus the judge shall come
And take His servants up
To their eternal home:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Tune: Gopsal
Music: G. F. Handel (1685–1759)
Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)
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POSTLUDE: PRELUDE AND FUGUE 4 FROM *EIGHT SMALL PRELUDES AND FUGUES*, ATTRIBUTED TO JS BACH

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Where there is a † in the liturgy, you are invited to make a sign of the cross if you wish. When the Gospel is read and we say “† Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ”, you are invited to make three tiny signs of the cross, on the forehead, on the lips and on the chest. This symbolises the Word of God in our minds, our words and our hearts.

Antidote

The best beauty always startles us
like the sudden song of the tree frog
waking me from sleep, just a single
plaintive cry through the open window,
and I become more window than wall.
Or stepping out the back door, ready
to start the lawn mower, when I see
a grasshopper resting on the centre
of a black-eyed Susan, staring up at me
from the intricate green machinery
of its body, preparing to leap – but this time
staying long enough for me to lean closer.
Then I notice the millipede inching
across the top of a mushroom growing
out of a stump, creature upon creature
upon creature in endless layers of being.
As a gentle rain drizzles down, I kneel
to feel the mushroom, like a medicine
for later, antidote I didn't know I needed
until it dropped into my day.

-- *James Crews, 2026*